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Introduction: On September 26, 2013, a public hearing was held in Modesto, California in regards to the Amendment to the Dos Rios Ranch Project Funding Agreement, Hidden Valley Ranch Acquisition. This project is to be funded in part by the Department of Water Resources through the Flood Corridor Program. The following is a summary of comments received at the public hearing, via email, and by postal delivery before the end of the public comment period. The comments are listed in no particular order.

Commenter ID	Comment Number	Submitted By	Commenters	Summary	Response
1	1.1	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The Districts do not believe that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has evaluated the adverse impact of the project upon water district operations in the vicinity of the San Joaquin River.	DWR has followed the Flood Corridor Program guidelines, applicable Water Codes, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in the administration of the funding for property acquisition. As proposed, the acquisition of the Hidden Valley Ranch includes no actions that would adversely impact water district operations in the vicinity of the San Joaquin River.
1	1.2	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	DWR has not followed its own guidelines for acquisition of the property or sufficiently evaluated the full impact of the project.	DWR has followed the Flood Corridor Program guidelines, applicable Water Codes, and California Environmental Quality Act in the administration of the funding for property acquisition.
1	1.3	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners (PTM) fails to meet the requirements of Water Code 7[8]041 because it asserts that the acquisition of the Hidden Valley Ranch will not jeopardize the West Stanislaus Irrigation District diversion facility.	As proposed, the acquisition phase of the Hidden Valley Ranch will not change land uses in the vicinity of the named diversion facility, thus will not jeopardize the facility. The PTM will be updated after a water control structure study and associated hydrologic and hydraulic studies to evaluate any impacts to adjacent landowners are conducted.
1	1.4	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners fails to meet the requirements of Water Code 78041 because it does not address the impact of the project on agricultural practices in the vicinity; it discusses only impacts to agricultural practices on the property itself.	As proposed, the acquisition of the Hidden Valley Ranch will not significantly change land uses on the property. As stated in the Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners, agricultural activities will continue on the property with slight modification for wildlife-friendly considerations. Such management is not expected to have an impact on agricultural operations in the vicinity of the project. DWR has followed the Flood Corridor Program guidelines and applicable water codes in the assessment of potential impacts to adjacent landowners.

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1	1.5	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	A significant adverse impact to adjacent landowners has not been addressed relative to channel meander and the effect channel meander may have on existing water diversion and flood control facilities.	As proposed, the acquisition includes no modification to channel meander potential in the region. Any future modification to flood control facilities would require engineering review and further public review through CEQA and NEPA. Such concerns would be addressed in the future should such actions be planned or undertaken.
1	1.6	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners does not address the presence of increased wildlife and special status species, and potentially introduced species adjacent to farmland as they may create obstacles to agricultural operations.	The wildlife that may benefit from the proposed project are already present on the property and in the vicinity of the property. The project as proposed does not include actions that would introduce species adjacent to farmland.
1	1.7	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The project does not address the cumulative impact to agriculture of the project as it relates to a "future acquisition of 14,306 to 22,156 acres of prime farmland by the federal government".	DWR has adequately evaluated the cumulative impact to agriculture of the project. As proposed, the project includes no loss of farmland. An economic analysis of the potential to acquire lands by expanding the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge has been prepared by the US Geological Survey to evaluate the economic impact on the region. However, the Hidden Valley Ranch acquisition does not include loss of farmland, thus is not considered cumulative to this economic analysis.
1	1.8	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	The adverse economic impact resulting from the loss of farmland has not been completely evaluated.	As proposed, the acquisition of Hidden Valley Ranch includes no change in land use, and includes no loss of farmland.

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1	1.9	Banta-Carbona, Patterson, and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts	Jeanne Zolezzi on behalf of David Weisenberger, Peter Rietkerk, Robert Pierce	Because "the proposed project is not to continue to agricultural use in the same manner as historically maintained," the project must be evaluated under CEQA.	DWR has provided adequate environmental review of the acquisition of Hidden Valley Ranch. The project does not include conversion of land uses away from agricultural production consistent with historical practices. The project also manages to preserve existing natural conditions.
2	2.1	Bob Ott	Bob Ott	We request a comprehensive and detailed plan to control rodent, squirrel and bird issues before they adversely affect our operation.	The proposed acquisition will not change the current land uses. Rodent control opportunities will be unchanged by the project.
2	2.2	Bob Ott	Bob Ott	We need notification if any species are planned to be introduced or reintroduced into the habitat.	The proposed acquisition does not include species introductions.
2	2.3	Bob Ott	Bob Ott	A plan needs to be devised to mitigate any and all adverse effects to our operation.	Prior to any modification of lands, a H&H study will be conducted and an updated Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners will be prepared and distributed for comment.
2	2.4	Bob Ott	Bob Ott	We are very concerned in the lack of a fire prevention and management plan.	The proposed acquisition does not include a change in fire prevention management on the Hidden Valley Property.
2	2.5	Bob Ott	Bob Ott	Will this become another project that is abandoned and becomes a public safety liability i.e. gangs, homeless, squatters etc.? We as landowners and neighbors respectfully request a written and detailed response with explanations on a comprehensive management plan.	The proposed acquisition does not include land use changes that would influence gangs, homeless, squatters, etc. Long-term management of the property is described in the Plan to Minimize Impacts to Adjacent Landowners.

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3	3.1	Pappas Family Trust	Laura Thompson and Marilyn Taylor, Trustees of the Pappas Family Trust	5 acres of our farm is on the same elevation as Dos Rios Ranch and Hidden Valley Ranch. How will we be able to protect our crops, vines or trees within the portion of land along the floodplain?	The proposed acquisition will not change the current land uses. Hydraulic engineers are currently engaged in the project to study potential modifications to flood control facilities and to ensure that impacts to adjacent landowners are thoroughly understood and mitigated. No modifications to the land will be made without further public review and comment.
3	3.2	Pappas Family Trust	Laura Thompson and Marilyn Taylor, Trustees of the Pappas Family Trust	How will we be able to protect our dwellings and structures within that portion of land along the floodplain?	The proposed acquisition will not change the current land uses. Hydraulic engineers are currently engaged in the project to study potential modifications to flood control facilities and to ensure that impacts to adjacent landowners are thoroughly understood and mitigated. No modifications to the land will be made without further public review and comment.
4	4.1	Stanislaus Audubon Society	Salvatore Salerno, President	The Stanislaus Audubon Society is in strong support of the acquisition, and hope that the funds are made available for the project.	Comment noted.
5	5.1	Chester Anderson	Chester Anderson	It is important to deal with water quality issues and salinity management on these properties.	By reconnecting 948 acres of floodplain to the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers, the project will improve water quality and reduce sediment loading in main river channels.
6	6.1	Sierra Club	Brad Barker	The Sierra Club is in strong support of the project. There are minimal opportunities for open habitat restoration, and this will help birds and Tule Elk return to the area.	Comment noted.